

# THE COMET.

Thirty Fourth Year.

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Whole Number 1725

## IRISH POTATOES

How to Handle Potatoes in Order to Get High Yields per Acre

### CULTIVATE THE SOIL WELL

A Soil That Has the Power to Hold Much Moisture Is Better for Potatoes Than Others—Potato Bug, an Enemy, Can Be Defeated.

Second-crop potatoes do not make their best growth until the cooler weather of fall, several weeks before frost. In the vicinity of Knoxville, August first is about the right time for planting second-crop potatoes. For the southwestern half of Tennessee and for the vicinity of Chattanooga, the date may be twelve days later. On the Cumberland Plateau and for high East Tennessee counties, Johnson and Carter, only the spring planted crop is grown.

#### Amount of Seed Needed.

Plant in rows 30 to 36 inches apart and 12 to 14 inches apart in the row. Planting at these distances will require from 10 to 12 bushels of seed for an acre. In good potato soils, those of medium texture, plant about four to five inches deep. In heavier soils, plant three to four inches. To prevent the furrow from drying out, as well as the seed, at the time of planting open only one furrow at a time and plant it and close it before planting the second furrow. This should be done especially when early crop potatoes are used for seed. Drop the seed so that it lies with the cut surface pressed slightly into the soil. Cover with a shovel plow run on each side of the furrow.

In dry weather, seed will lie in the ground several weeks before coming thru the surface. Seed from first crop potatoes will frequently lie in the ground from five to six weeks before the plants break thru the surface. When the rows are visible, cultivate at once, throwing the soil up well over the rows. To kill weeds and break up the surface crust, the rows should be cross-cultivated with a light scratch harrow, or weeder. This should be done several times, as often as the appearance of the soil shows the necessity of it. Don't give the weeds a chance to grow, or the soil to dry out below the surface mulch. When the rows become visible again, cultivation should follow the rows again. The five-tooth plow cultivator and 14-tooth harrow may be used for this. At least three cultivators with the rows should be given the crop. Use the five-tooth plow or other cultivator with the wide teeth attached and work as close to the plants as possible without injuring the roots, throwing the soil well up about the plants. If cultivation is done on small areas with a hand hoe, pull the soil up about the plant with the hoe at this time. A two-horse riding cultivator will save labor and do more efficient work than any other kind of cultivator. Three or four weeks before the tubers will be ready to dig the rows should be swept by running a bull tongue or a special potato sweep between the rows which throws the soil in ridges up about the plants.

#### Kill the Potato Bug.

The Colorado potato beetle is the worst enemy of the potato, and if allowed to go unchecked may strip the foliage from the plants. As soon as first signs of the beetle are noticed, spray with arsenate of lead at the rate of two pounds to fifty gallons of water. Where a spray is not available, make a mixture of one-half powdered lead arsenate and one-half air-slaked lime or sifted wood ashes or road dust. This may then be applied by shaking it thru a cloth bag onto the plants, preferably when they are wet with rain or dew.—C. E. Brehm, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

#### BEAUTY IS NOT EXPENSIVE.

Here in Tennessee we have so many beautiful native shrubs and small trees that every farm lawn can have a splendid border planting with no other expense than a little labor.

Redbud, flowering dogwood, silver-bell, holly, witch-hazel, wild plum, wild crab apple, coral-berry, elder, sumac, buckthorn, leather-wood, spice-bush, sweet shrub—all of these are appropriate plants for this kind of planting. And with wise choosing one can have something attractive in flower or fruit or foliage throughout the year.

Let us get away from the idea that beauty is expensive. Our own woods and groves are full of beautiful shrubs and small trees. Visitors from other states become enthusiastic at sight of them, but we have known them too long, and are blind to their wonderful beauty.—C. A. Keffer, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

When a man has a wheel in his head, the tire is furnished by his associates.

## BETTER TYPE OF MULES FROM BIGGER MARES

Present-Day Farm Conditions Demand Mares of Draft Type With Snappy Action.

The results that can be obtained by the use of the purebred sire of strong individuality is generally acknowledged. Some men, for one reason or another, do not use purebred sires, but of these, few do not admit the desirability of so doing.

In the rearing of horses in Tennessee the situation is different from that surrounding other farm animals. The American Standardbred, the Thoroughbred and the American Saddle horse have been perfected in this, and adjoining states, and it is natural that these favorites of our own hands should always be given loyal support. It is not that we think any the less of these, that changes in our attitude towards horse production are necessary.

Agricultural conditions have arisen which create a demand for a type of mare that will perform heavy farm work and at the same time produce high selling mules.

The largest so-called "hot-blooded" mares are not numerous enough nor can they be produced in sufficient numbers to meet the demand.

What, then, is the easy solution to this problem? The results obtained thru using carefully-selected stallions of a draft breed on our own native mares indicate beyond dispute that the resulting mares when mated to good jacks bring the good mule today.

Such stallions must not be of the sluggish, overweight type, but must be selected for that quality and action that is so essential to our present stage of development.—C. D. Lowe, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

## POTATOES FROM YOUR GARDEN

Mash Them in This Way and You Will Get the Greatest Satisfaction

Cook the potatoes in boiling salted water. When thoroughly tender, pour off the water at once and mash with a potato masher until there are no lumps. Beat very hard with a perforated wooden spoon, if you have one. The harder the potatoes are beaten the fluffier they will be. While beating, add a little hot milk, just enough to make a firm texture; also a little butter and salt. Turn into a hot vegetable dish and serve. If it is not possible to serve the potatoes immediately after beating, place the dish in a pan of hot water, but do not put a lid on the potatoes. Do not smooth them off on the top, but pile them in the dish. A lid placed on the top of the potatoes at this time tends to send the steam back and makes them soggy instead of dry and light.—Geneva Conway, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

#### HOW TO CAN TOMATOES.

Select firm, well-formed tomatoes. Scald 1½ minutes or until skins loosen. Dip quickly into and out of cold water. Peel and remove stems and cores. Pack directly into cans or hot jars. Press down with a table spoon (add no water). Add a level teaspoonful of salt per quart. Put the rubber rings and caps of jars in position, but do not tighten fully. Seal tin cans completely. Place the packed containers on a false bottom in a vessel of water sufficiently deep to cover them by one inch and allow to remain at a boiling temperature for 22 minutes when using hot water bath canners.—U. S. D. A.

#### GOOD WHEAT-SEEDING RULES.

1. Have a deep, well-pulverized and firm seed bed.
2. Sow a good, clean seed.
3. Use 200 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate fertilizer per acre.
4. Use 2 tons of ground limestone per acre, if possible.
5. Sow your wheat with a wheat drill.
6. Sow 1 to 1½ bushels of seed per acre.

## NOW!

#### Keep Poultry.

#### Keep a Cow.

#### Feed a few MEAT HOGS.

#### Insure a HOME FOOD SUPPLY by doing these things.

Don't plant all your land in COTTON OR TOBACCO, unless an ample acreage is planted or set aside for food, feed and seed crops.

#### We are at WAR.

Our NATION CALLS US to energize every available resource at our command. What is done this year will determine our condition next year.

## -MR. WISEGUY- BY C.D. GRAVES

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"YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME RIDING IN ONE OF THOSE MACHINES. SOME DAY YOU'LL SURELY FIND YOURSELF ALL SMASHED TO SMITHEREENS."

"NOW THIS IS SOMETHING LIKE! IT BEATS THE AUTO OUT OF SIGHT. A MOTORCYCLE IS A FRIEND THAT ALWAYS TREATS YOU RIGHT."

"A MOTOR CYCLE IS ALL RIGHT AND SAFE AS ANY BED; I'LL RIDE AWHILE BEHIND YOU SEE, OUR OLD FRIEND WISE GUY SAID."

BUT AH! ALAS FOR WISE GUY'S HEAD. THE ROAD WAS VERY ROUGH. HE FELL AND HURT HIMSELF; THEN SWORE OF RIDES HE'D HAD ENOUGH."

## INCREASE YIELD OF WHEAT CROP

No Better Time Can Be Found To Think of These Things Than Now

Experience has shown that from three to five bushels per acre increased yield in wheat can be made by plowing the land deep and early so as to give the soil time to settle. The wheat plant likes a firm seed bed just below the surface. If the land is quite loose the roller should be used. The increase in yield from the firm packing of a roller will often pay for the roller in one crop.

Another chance to increase the yield per acre is by using sound, plump seed that will grow. Fan and screen out all small and shriveled grains.

The average yield of wheat can be increased five bushels if one will give attention to these details. It requires nearly a whole year to grow a crop of wheat. Why not get the highest crop possible by doing the right thing at the right time. It does not cost any more and the profit is so pleasing and satisfactory. Do your best this time and note the difference.—C. E. Allred, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

## FARMERS' INCOME TAX

The United States Revenue Collectors have sent out blanks that the farmers are expected to fill, and then appear before one of the deputy collectors for personal consultation. The important thing to be done by those who suspect that they may be subject to this tax is to gather all the information which they may be called upon to furnish. For example, they should make careful records of everything sold from the farm, together with the total sum received. Then they should make similar reports of everything bought which entered into the conduct of the farm, as, for example, feed and livestock of all kinds. The ordinary family expenditures are not to be deducted from the gross income.

The man who has a complete record of all his business transactions will be much better able to answer the questions which will be asked of him by the deputy collector; and, inasmuch as the income tax law imposes a very severe penalty upon any individual who should make a return and fails to do so, and upon any individual who makes any false or fraudulent returns, farmers should prepare to protect themselves by being able to furnish promptly and satisfactorily any information which may be demanded of them.

Your County Agents or Specialists at the Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, can help you in this matter, and will be glad to do so without charge.

Some men have more money than is good for them, but any doctor ought to be able to relieve that ailment.

## EGGS WELL COOKED MAKE INEXPENSIVE BREAKFAST DISH

Reasons Given Why Fried Eggs Are of Less Value Than Poached Eggs.

If you like eggs, and wish to get from them all possible food value when you eat them, don't fry them. Poach the egg, or cook it in the shell.

Fat, when exposed to heat, such as frying an egg, undergoes a chemical change, and is very hard to digest. This indigestible fat encases the egg which should be digested in the stomach. The fat is not attacked in the stomach but passes into the intestines for its digestion. This is too late to use the full amount of the egg for body building.

Cook an egg in low temperature, the same as you would cook meat, milk, or cheese.

One may have a dish which is especially good for breakfast, made as follows:

Bring to a boil ½ can of tomatoes, seasoned. Place this in a flat bowl that can be placed in the oven. In the center of the tomatoes drop from three to six eggs. Set in the oven. Cook until the whites coagulate. This gives both an attractive and wholesome dish and takes the place of fresh fruit in the breakfast to be used in the winter time when fresh fruit is scarce.

Eggs are not an expensive food when one considers that, if properly cooked, a very large percentage is available for body use.—Geneva Conway, Division of Agricultural Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

#### CAN BEETS THIS WAY.

Select a dark red beet, grade as to size, boil with two inches of top left on. (This keeps beet from bleeding.) Boil until three-fourths done. If "baby beets" or "rose bud" beets are being canned, a blanch from 20 to 30 minutes in boiling water, as for beans, and a plunge in cold water is sufficient. Place in sterilized jars, add two teaspoonfuls of salt and sugar mixture (two measures sugar and one of salt) to each quart jar. Fill to overflowing with either boiling or cold water. Place on sterilized rubbers and tops tightly. Process for one hour, if tender and small. Do not count time until water is boiling.

Screw on or clamp down tops immediately when jars are removed from water.

(For more complete information address Miss Virginia P. Moore, Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.)

#### SILAGE WILL BE NEEDED.

Whenever there are ten or more head of cattle to be wintered, there should be one or more silos. The largest ears should be pulled off, and the stover used in filling the silo. The Tennessee wood-hoop is the best for temporary silo; the concrete for permanency. Every acre of corn which does not go into the silo should be cut and shocked.

General Humidity has arrived at the front.

#### THE COMET FOR JOB WORK

## PREPARE EARLY FOR GARDENS

Big Yields Next Year Will Be Made Possible Only if Land is Made Ready Soon

### PLAN TO LIVE AT HOME

War-time Conditions Make It Obligatory Upon Families, Especially Farm Families, That Gardens Be as Large as Practicable.

(By Charles A. Keffer, director, Division of Agricultural Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.) In the fall months is the best time to get the vegetable garden ready for planting. Throughout Tennessee, in all altitudes of 1,200 feet or less, planting should begin in January, and from January to September the garden should be a place of planting. And so the time for planting is the late fall months.

If there is only a little manure, by all means put it in the garden.

Crimson clover, lime, phosphate, and a little potash can be used to maintain the fertility of the fields, but we expect much greater yields of garden than of field crops. The quantity of vegetables depends largely on rapid growth. There is nothing like manure to make vegetables grow well.

We have had two gardens at the Experiment Station. In one commercial fertilizers alone were used. In the other, nothing but barnyard manure was applied to the soil. The manured vegetables grew more rapidly, produced better, were of better quality. Especially was this true of the leaf and root vegetables, but it was clearly apparent in all.

Manure heavily and plow deep. Then spread fine manure over the plowing and disk it in, leaving the land rough until ready to plant; then make a perfect seed bed by repeated use of the spike-tooth harrow and plow.

In January, Irish Cobler, Quick Lunch or Triumph potatoes should be planted for first crop, and Alaska peas should be put in. There is apt to be too much wet weather in January for plowing the garden. Do it earlier.

#### Inactivity Causes Constipation

Lack of exercise in the winter is a frequent cause of constipation. You feel heavy, dull and listless, your complexion is sallow and pimply, and energy at low ebb. Clean up this condition at once with Dr. King's New Life Pills, a mild laxative that relieves the congested intestines without griping. A dose before retiring will assure you a full and easy movement in the morning. 25c at your Druggist.

When a man shows a Christian spirit in an argument things are coming his way.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION

July 28, 1917, first election. Voters will vote simply "for" or "against" the Convention.

Sept. 29, 1917, election of delegates. EVERY county will be entitled to ONE delegate, some counties to more, making 127 delegates in all.

Oct. 30, 1917, convention will meet in Nashville. It WILL NOT write the Constitution anew. It will merely suggest AMENDMENTS, which must be voted on by the people.

The Convention will fix the date of the election on the amendments. Each amendment must be voted on separately BY THE PEOPLE. A majority of the votes cast on each amendment is necessary to its adoption.

In all counties voting under the Dorch Law, a registration certificate is necessary to vote.

1916 poll tax receipt is necessary to vote.

## Go To The Polls July 28

Go to the polls on July 28 and cast a vote for a Constitutional Convention and for progress. Such a vote would be in accord with the spirit of patriotism, which is manifesting itself in various directions all over the land.

Every county in Tennessee will have at least one delegate in the Constitutional Convention, should it be called. This is a decided advantage over previous propositions. The smaller counties will be on the same footing with those of moderate size. Pickett and Unicoi would each have a delegate and so would Wilson and Sumner. The small counties had very little voice under the plans heretofore promulgated.

Thirty-seven Tennessee counties, or over one-third in the State, showed an actual decrease in population during the decade ending in 1910, according to census figures of unquestionable accuracy. The population of nearly all the agricultural counties was either about stationary or showed a loss, and the small gain credited to the state as a whole came from the cities mainly. Tennessee has dropped from second in population in 1870 to fifth. A new Constitution, which would be a powerful stimulus to all avenues of development, would go far toward stopping this depressing showing as to population.

Ninety-two of the one hundred and twenty-seven delegates in the proposed Constitutional Convention would come from agricultural communities, and only thirty-five from counties containing cities. The farmers and their neighbors of the towns and villages would, therefore, be in clear numerical control of the convention. The plea which some who are opposing the convention have been making that "the cities would put it over the country" is, therefore, so absurd as to be unworthy a moment's serious attention. The country delegates would outnumber those from the cities over two and a half to one. When one vote weighs more than nearly three the silly plea referred to will have some force.

Would "good men" go to a Constitutional Convention, were one called? The lessons of the past are the surest guide for the future. The three Constitutional Conventions which have been held already in Tennessee were the most distinguished bodies ever assembled within its borders, that of 1870, the one nearest to us, being the ablest of all. The people ruled in them all; the ablest, most honored men in the state, taken as a whole, were members. Each county vied with its neighbors to select its strongest man to represent it. What reason is there for fearing that the people of the state having gone to the pains and expense of securing a convention will lose all interest in it and permit just any sort of a fellow to be elected delegate?

When a man knows that he is really sick and needs the need of medicine, he realizes that the best time to take it is NOW—to stop the malady and put him on his feet as soon as possible. He is not very apt to turn a patient ear to the suggestion that the time is not "opportune" for medicine taking, that he had better wait until he feels worse, to plan to take the cure next year or some other year. Tennessee is sick, is very sick, of stagnation of energy, lethargy, of failure to reach out and develop her agricultural and industrial resources. The federal government is telling us that and warning us with figures that show an appalling drop in prestige among the states of the South. Tennessee needs the medicine of constitutional revision; so say all. Then why suggest to the state a policy of delay that no sane man would for a moment listen to as to himself?

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE COMET

## IS THERE SILO ON YOUR FARM

Silage This Year Will Be More Important in Sensible Feeding Than Before

### SILO PAYS ITS OWN COST

There Are Many Kinds of Good Silos, But Wood-Hoop Silo Is Favored in Many Places Because of Its Inexpensiveness and Ease of Construction.

In general Tennessee farm practice the length of the period of usefulness of the wood-stave silo is not determined by the number of years the staves will last, but by the care the silo receives. It is not uncommon to find a stave silo in good condition that has been in use for ten years. Neglect of tightening the hoops during the summer when the silo is empty results in its becoming twisted out of shape and not infrequently blowing down.

Modifications of the stave silo are in quite common use in some sections of the state, the two types deserving particular mention being the wood-hoop and the garter.

The construction of the wood-hoop silo is described in Publication 26, of the Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, copy of which can be had for the asking. The particular recommendation for the wood-hoop silo is the cheapness of construction, considering satisfaction, and the length of time it will last. Wood hoops are used, made of 4 thicknesses of green white oak or elm, ½"x3" generally sawed from a log cut on the farm. These hoops are spaced about 2 feet apart and the staves (1"x4" tongued and grooved pine flooring) are nailed to the inside of these hoops, leaving a space of 2 feet wide for a door. This makes a silo that is inexpensive, as rigid as the regular stave silo, and the hoops do not loosen when it is empty. It can be constructed at a very moderate cost, and will last on an average of ten years.

The garter type of silo is on much the same principle, except that rough lumber is used for staves. These are nailed to the wooden hoops and on the inside are lathed and plastered with cement plaster. In sections where it is not easily possible to obtain tongued and grooved flooring, and rough lumber is available, and enough cement to make the plaster can be obtained at a small cost, this type of silo, if well braced so as not to be shaken by winds which crack the plaster, will give entire satisfaction at a very reasonable cost.

The cost of silos and materials for their construction vary so greatly for different sizes and in different sections that it is not possible to make a comparison that is reliable. The average cost of the concrete silos that have been built in Tennessee within the past few years has been between \$2.50 and \$3.00 per ton capacity. The cost of the wood-hoop silo averages around \$1.00 per ton capacity. Other stave silos vary in cost on account of the different kinds of lumber used in their construction.

So far as protecting the silage is concerned, a roof on the silo is unnecessary. It serves as a protection for the silo and for the feeder during cold, rainy or snowy weather, but its value for the purpose hardly justifies its use where the fact of its being very much in the way of filling the silo is taken into consideration.

The inside of all silos, concrete as well as wood, should be kept painted, and for this purpose coal tar, thinned with gasoline or heated so that it can be put on readily with a brush, is most commonly used. Wood silos should be kept painted on the outside by R. M. Murphy, Division of Agricultural Extension, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

#### TO GROW RED CLOVER WELL.

Red clover can be grown successfully on most Tennessee soils, provided farmers lime and seed at the right time, with good preparation. The best method of preparation is to sub-soil, break and disk thoroughly; follow by continuous cultivation, to destroy weeds; conserve moisture and firm the seed bed. Having used a minimum of two tons of ground rock, or one ton of burned lime per acre, 10 pounds of Medium Red Clover and 2 bushels of Tall Meadow Oat Grass should be seeded in August.

#### ALFALFA ON CLEAN LAND.

All land sown to alfalfa should be limed, inoculated, drained and cleared of weed seed by a long period of continuous preparation. Be sure your seed bed is firm, fertilized, free from crabgrass, and contains a good supply of moisture. Having been inoculated and limed, the seeding should be done from the 10th to 30th of August, using 25 pounds per acre of western grown seed.

United States Behind World. Of all the nations the United States alone allows the use of white phosphorus in making matches.